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I wish to thank Mr. N. S. Martin, Mr. J. B. Pyper and Mr. N. McLeod, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons in the Fracture Unit of the Belfast City Hospital, for their help and permission to use their clinical material. I am also grateful to the staff of the Records Department, Belfast City Hospital, for their valuable assistance.

BOOK REVIEW

CLINICAL TESTS OF GASTRIC FUNCTION. By Alastair M. Connell. (Pp. 117. Illustrated. £1.50). London: Pitman Medical. 1973.

In recent years the well known gruel test meal has given place to more precise tests of gastric secretion, measurements of the rate of emptying have been introduced into clinical practice and it has become possible to measure the stimulating hormone, gastrin. The whole subject has been admirably reviewed in a small paper-back by Professor Alastair Connell, now of Cincinnati, Ohio. In this book he refers extensively to his experience of 1,800 tests in the gastric function service which he ran here in Belfast. Many of these patients were followed up over a period of years, so that the results of acid studies can be linked to the clinical findings, giving authority to Dr. Connell's findings.

There is a particularly useful chapter describing postoperative tests, in which the controversial Hollander's insulin test is carefully analyzed and its usefulness is put into perspective. In another chapter the gastric emptying test, devised in Belfast by George, is well described. An excellent feature of this work is a series of nine short appendices, each describing precisely how each test should be performed.

This low priced little book is a must for the gastroenterologist and should be available to all physicians and to any surgeon who is prepared to perform a vagotomy or gastrectomy. It is a great pleasure to recommend a book which is essentially a product of the Belfast Medical School, and which is eminently readable.

T.K.